

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 279399

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PCH-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY EA/P:AHROSEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

BUREAU OF THE TREASURY WASHDC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMDT COGARD WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 279399

COMDR COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 20 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

AP SAIGON REPORTS THAT US SAYS IT KNOWS "CONCLUSIVELY" THAT NVN AND VC HAVE INFO ON FATE OF 87 MIAS, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT NECESSARILY ALIVE; CALLS ON COMMUNISTS THROUGH JMT TO SUPPLY DATA "FORTHWITH." EMBASSY DISCLOSED THAT IT TURNED FOLDERS OVER TO COMMUNISTS CONTAINING UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 279399

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS ON 87 THAT APPEARED IN NVN PUBLICATIONS; NAMES OF MIAS INVOLVED NOT MADE PUBLIC.

INDOCHINA WAR ENTERS 29TH YEAR AMID HEAVIEST FIGHTING

SINCE 1972, WITH OFFICIALS PREDICTING EVEN HEAVIER BATTLES AFTER XMAS. SVN OFFICER BELIEVES THAT HIGH COMMUNIST LOSSES OVER PAST TWO WEEKS AND COMING FULL MOON SHOULD GIVE SOME RESPITE OVER HOLIDAYS (CHITRIB, GLOBE).

OFFICIAL SOURCES SAY GKR DEFMIN AND SECOND VICE PREMIER THAPPANA NGINN RESIGNED, GIVING POOR HEALTH AS REASON. OBSERVERS NOTED GENERAL'S DEPARTURE FOLLOWED SHARP CRITICISM BY PRESS AND POLITICIANS AND THAT THIS CLEARS WAY FOR NEW POLITICAL FORMULA TO TRY IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVT AND ARMED FORCES. MINISTRY

BEING RUN TEMPORARILY BY MINISTER ATTACHED TO PM'S OFFICE (AFP, WP).

PP MIL SOURCE SAID REBELS LAUNCHED ATTACK AGAINST KAMPOT AFTER HEAVY ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT. INSURGENTS ALSO STRUCK WITHIN SIX MILES OF CAPITAL TO HARASS GKR TROOPS EAST OF MEKONG (AFP, WP).

IN VIENTIANE HOWARD DEAN SAID HE IS "HOPEFUL" THAT PL WOULD RELEASE HIS SON BY XMAS, THAT HE WAS ASSURED OY PHOUMI VONGVICHIT SON BEING "WELL LOOKED AFTER" AND HE COULD LEAVE MEDICINE AND CLOTHING TO BE FORWARDED. DEAN ADDED THAT WH HAD SENT LETTERS ON HIS BEHALF TO PL (NYT).

2. CHINA

SUN'S ISAACS, IN HK, NOTES NCNA DISPATCH CARRIED RENEWED PRC DEMAND THAT BOTH US AND SOVIET WITHDRAW NAVAL FORCES FROM INDIAN OCEAN. BUT DISPATCH MADE CLEAR CHINA IS FAR MORE CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET THAN US PRESENCE THERE, ECHOING RITUAL CHINESE CHARGE THAT SOVIET-US THAW IS GIGANTIC FAKE TO CONCEAL SUPER-POWERS' RIVALRY IN INDIAN OCEAN CONTEST FOR UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 279399

DOMINANCE IN ME AND EVENTUALLY EUROPE. ISAACS OBSERVES THAT CHINESE CRITICISM OF US NAVY PATROLS AND POSSIBLE PLANS TO DEVELOP DIEGO GARCIA BASE WAS MILD AND ALMOST OFFHAND, WHEREAS LANGUAGE DIRECTED AT SOVIET WAS MUCH HARSHER, AND SUPPORTED US CLAIM THAT SOVIET, IN EFFECT, HAS MIL BASES IN REGION.

TASS DENIES LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTS OF RENEWED SINO-SOVIET FIGHTING ON MONGOLIAN-CHINESE BORDER (CHITRIB). WP AND NYT CARRY PHOTOS (NCNA VIA UPI) OF PRC CAVALRY TRAINING WITH LOCAL MILITIA OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES IN NW CHINA IN EXERCISES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN ARMY-CIVILIAN JOINT DEFENSE OF BORDER

WITH SOVIET.

ZAIRE PRES MOBUTU LEAVES PEKING FOR SOUTH CHINA AT
END OF OFFICIAL PART OF HIS SECOND PRC VISIT IN TWO
YEARS (AFP, WP).

NYT'S DOUGHERTY HAS PROFILE ON SHIRLEY YOUNG, DAUGHTER
OF ONE-TIME NATIONALIST CHINESE CONSUL GENERAL
IN PHILIPPINES AND STEP-DAUGHTER OF WELLINGTON KOO.
MRS. YOUNG, WHO LIVED THROUGH JAPANESE OCCUPATION
OF PHILS, IN WHICH HER FATHER WAS EXECUTED, CAME TO
US AFTER WAR AND TODAY IS "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
WOMEN" IN FIELD OF ADVERTISING RESEARCH.

3. HONG KONG

JOC'S STRAUSS, IN HK, REPORTS TWO LOCAL GROUPS THERE
HAVE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO BUILD THREE ADDITIONAL
CONTAINER BERTHS BY ADDING NEW CONTAINER TERMINAL
AND EXPANDING ANOTHER AT COST OF MORE THAN 115 MIL
DOLS. THESE ARE THOUGHT LIKELY TO BE LAST SUCH
BERTHS EVER TO BE BUILT IN HK, UNLESS SOME FORM
OF NEW POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT IS MADE WITH PEKING.
STRAUSS REMINDS THAT HK CONTAINER TERMINALS ARE
BUILT ON LAND LEASED FROM CHINA, AND LEASE EXPIRES
IN 1997 -- WITH NO INDICATION OF RENEWAL. OBSERVES
THAT SOME HK POLITICAL SOURCES THINK PRC WILL NOT
WISH TO TAKE TERRITORY, AND THUS LOSE VERY PROFITABLE
HK MARKET ECONOMY. BUT UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN SOME
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 279399

DEFINITE WORD FROM CHINA ON THIS POINT, IT IS CERTAIN
THAT ANY BUSINESSMAN MUST RUN HIS AFFAIRS ON
ASSUMPTION LEASE WILL EXPIRE.

4. PHILIPPINES

MARCOS LIFTS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE CURFEW
THROUGHOUT COUNTRY EXCEPT IN "CRITICAL" AREAS (AFP,
WP). ACCORDING TO MANILA CHURCH SOURCES, GOP HAS
ARRESTED TWO FILIPINO RC PRIESTS, INCLUDING ONE WHO
HAD ELUDED CUSTODY SINCE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW
(WP).

5. BURMA

AP PHOTO SHOWS BURMESE YOUTHS DISPLAYING MARTIAL-LAW
HAIRCUTS ADMINISTERED BY ARMY TROOPS IN RANGOON, AS
GUB CRACKED DOWN ON DISSIDENTS. BURMESE SOURCES
SAY 4,000-5,000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, AND
SOLDIERS WERE STILL ADMINISTERING ON-THE-SPOT HAIRCUTS
TO YOUTHS IN STREETS THURSDAY (BOSTON H-A DEC 17).

6. KOREA

DR. OGLE TO APPEAR BEFORE HFAC SUBCOMMITTEES AT 2:00 PM TODAY; TO TESTIFY ON 'STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SK" (WP).

OGLE TOLD PRESS IN NY YESTERDAY (RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE'S ELLIOT WRIGHT, IN WP) THAT KOREAN CHRISTIANS ARE "HARASSED AND INTIMIDATED" FOR "ACTS NO MORE POLITICAL THAN PRAYING FOR PEOPLE IN JAIL". OGLE SAID PARK FEARS SK CHRISTIAN MINORITY (3.4 MILLION PROTESTANT, 850,000 RC) WHICH STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND DEEPLY

DEVOTED TO JUSTICE, PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, BECAUSE HE CANNOT DOMINATE IT. DEPORTING ONE US CLERGYMAN WILL NOT SOLVE PARK'S TROUBLES WITH OWN CITIZENS, WHICH OGLE OBSERVED ARE CAUSED BY "DICTATORIAL POLICIES OF PRESIDENT WHO INSISTS ON IMPOSING HIS OWN WILL ON PEOPLE WHO LOVE PEACE AND JUSTICE". SAYS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 279399

HE FIRST BECAME AWARE OF ROKG HOSTILITY ON OCT 11 WHEN HE WAS TAKEN FROM PRAYER MEETING (IN WHICH HE ASKED FOR PRAYERS FOR EIGHT MEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH) TO KCIA HQ FOR 19 HOURS OF QUESTIONING. ON DEC 5, HE WAS "SUMMONED" TO US EMBASSY AND TOLD THAT ROK FM HAD DECIDED TO DEPORT HIM UNLESS HE SIGNED STATEMENT PROMISING BETTER BEHAVIOR.

MOON SE-KWANG HANGED FOR MURDER OF MRS. PARK. EXECUTION CAME THREE DAYS AFTER SENTENCE UPHELD BY SUPREME COURT (WP, GLOBE). PRISON OFFICIALS SAY MOON, IN LAST STATEMENT, EXPRESSED SORROW FOR DEATH OF MRS. PARK, WHOM HE DID NOT INTEND TO KILL (AP, SUN).

REUTER (SEOUL)REPORTS ANTI-GOVT DEMONSTRATION IN KWANGJU BY 100 NDP MEMBERS, INCLUDING SOME ASSEMBLYMEN, BROKEN UP BY RIOT POLICE FIRING TEAR GAS. NDP LEADER KIM YOUNG-SAM CALLED ON PARK TO STEP DOWN, REVISE CONSTITUTION. LATER, 50 PRO-GOVT WAR VETERANS STORMED INTO NDP HQ AND DEMONSTRATORS' HOTEL, BUT WERE REPELLED BY POLICE. NO INJURIES REPORTED.

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN SEOUL INTERVIEWS TOP ECONOMIC PLANNER, DEPUTY PM NAM DUCK-SOO, WHO BELIEVES ROK ECONOMY CAN GROW 6 - 8 PCT NEXT YEAR, IF NATION MEETS EXPORT GOAL OF 6 BILLION DOLLARS, AND IF PRIVATE INVESTMENT INCREASES 10 PCT. NAM BELIEVES ECONOMY IN RECOVERY PHASE AS RESULT OF EMERGENCY MEASURES. STILL, BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY ARISING FROM BUSINESS PESSIMISM, ROKG PLANNING UNPRECEDENTED, MASSIVE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM FOR NEXT YEAR TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT.

7. JAPAN

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO LOOKS AT OIL CONSERVATION PLAN
JAPAN WILL PRESENT TO IEA IN PARIS NEXT WEEK, FINDS
IT DESIGNED TO GO ALONG WITH US INITIATIVE AS FAR AS
POSSIBLE WITHOUT ANGERING ARABS OR HURTING JAPAN'S
ECONOMY. QUOTES US OFFICIAL SAYING THIS IS "COMPROMISE
WE CAN LIVE WITH".

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 279399

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO REPORTS JAPANESE INFORMED
PEKING THEY WISH TO REDUCE OIL IMPORTS SHARPLY

IN 1975, BECAUSE 13.50 DOL/BBL PRICE IS EXCESSIVE
COMPARED WITH INDONESIAN PRICE OF 12.60. SAYS
JAPANESE ALSO WISH TO DELAY PURCHASE OF AT LEAST 900,000
OF 4.9 MILLION TONS OF CHINESE CRUDE THEY AGREED TO
BUY IN 1974.

JOC (EDMONTON) SAYS MITSUBISHI PETROCHEMICAL AND
MITSUBISHI METAL SIGNED OIL SAND FEASIBILITY STUDY
AGREEMENT WITH ALBERTA.

TREASURY ANNOUNCES ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION OF
JAPANESE PORTABLE ELECTRIC TYPEWRITERS; IMPORTS
TOTALED 16 MIL DOL IN YEAR ENDING AUG 31 (WSJ).

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER SATO PLANS TO USE AWARD
TO SET UP FOUNDATION FOR PROJECTED UN UNIVERSITY IN
JAPAN (AFP, WP).

EX-IM BANK ANNOUNCED APPROVAL OF NEW EXPORT CREDITS
OF 1.8 MIL DOL FOR TOWEL AND SCREW-MAKING PLANTS
FOR NK, 11.1 MIL DOL FOR COLD STORAGE MACHINERY
FOR CUBA (UPI, JOC).

CERRO CORP ANNOUNCES ITS FETTEROLF COAL AND CONSTRUCTION
CO TO GET 13-YEAR 35 MIL DOL LOAN FROM SUMITOMO METAL
INDUSTRIES AND MITSUBISHI CORP; LENDERS AGREE TO BUY
LARGE PART OF FETTEROLF OUTPUT OVER LIFE OF LOAN
(WSJ).

CHITRIB'S YATES (IN PHINQ) SAYS CHRISTMAS NOT LEGAL
HOLIDAY IN JAPAN, WHERE ITS SIGNIFICANCE UNKNOWN TO
MANY; STILL, HE FINDS IT MOST WIDELY CELEBRATED,
COMMERCIALY SUCCESSFUL NON-HOLIDAY IN HISTORY.

8. MARIANAS

POST'S GRIFFIN REPORTS NEGOTIATORS ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT
YESTERDAY ON PACT THAT WOULD ESTABLISH COMMONWEALTH

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 279399

WITH US. PROPOSED COVENANT MUST STILL BE APPROVED BY
US CONGRESS, MARIANA LEGISLATURE, AND BY PLEBISCITE.

UNDER AGREEMENT, US TO PAY MORE THAN 19.5 MILLION
DOLLARS FOR 100-YEAR LEASE ON ABOUT 18,000 ACRES OF
LAND ON MARIANAS FOR MIL USES. ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF
THAT LAND TO BE LEASED BACK TO MARIANAS GOVT AND TO
PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS ONE DOLLAR PER ACRE PER YEAR.
ADDITIONALLY, US TO PROVIDE MARIANAS WITH SOME 14 MIL/
YEAR IN AID FOR SEVEN YEARS.

EAR IN AID FOR SEVEN YEARS.

NEGOTIATIONS COMPLICATED LAST WEEK BY US DECISION
TO DELAY CONSTRUCTION OF 300 MILLION AIR AND NAVAL
BASE ON TINIAN. WHILE DRAFT AGREEMENT STILL
FORESEES CREATION OF SUCH BASE AS LONG-TERM
POSSIBILITY, MAJOR IMMEDIATE USE OF LEASED LAND IS
TO BE FOR GROUND, SEA AND AIR TRAINING. DOD OFFICIALS
WERE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS CHANGE, BUT INTERIOR
SPOKESMAN SAID IDEA OF LARGE BASE ON TINIAN HAD
ONLY BEEN DEFERRED BECAUSE OF "BUDGET CRUNCH."
DELAY IN BUILDING BASE HAD EFFECT OF INCREASING
AMOUNT OF LAND TO BE LEASED TO RESIDENTS AND MARIANAS
GOVT.

9. AUSTRALIA

GLOBE SQUIB REPORTS WHITLAM SAYING, AT LONDON
LUNCHEON DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN POLICY, THAT HIS
NATION'S INVOLVEMENT IN VN WAR WAS MISTAKE.

PHINQ WIRE SERVICES AND UPI SYDNEY (CHITRIB) REPORT
BUSHFIRES IN WESTERN NSW AND SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND,
DESCRIBED BY AUTHORITIES AS WORST IN AUSTRALIA'S
HISTORY.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

10. CHINA

LAT (DEC 19) WASHINGTON STAFFER ROBERT JONES WRITES
LENGTHY FEATURE ON PRC STRIDES TOWARD FOOD SELF-
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 279399

SUFFICIENCY. CITES REPORT BY TEAM OF AGRICULTURAL
AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS, HEADED BY STERLING WORTMAN,
WHICH RECENTLY RETURNED FROM 4-WEEK TOUR OF CHINESE
COMMUNE SYSTEM. CONCLUSIONS OF REPORT CHARACTERIZE

COMMUNE SYSTEM AS "REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL," AND GIVE MUCH CREDIT TO WHOLESAL RESHUFFLING OF CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROGRAM THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE 1960S ("GREAT LEAP FORWARD"). DURING REORGANIZATION, RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS WERE PULLED FROM CITIES AND SCIENTISTS SENT TO FIELDS, WHERE EACH IS NOW REQUIRED TO SPEND THIRD OF HIS TIME WORKING WITH PEASANTS TO INCREASE YIELDS. ALTHOUGH DISLOCATION OF RESEARCH CENTERS HAMPERED SOPHISTICATED RESEARCH, INVOLVEMENT OF SCIENTISTS AT FARM LEVEL PRODUCED STRONG GAINS IN OUTPUT OF BASIC GRAINS. QUOTES WORTMAN THAT, "IT'S WHAT EVERY DEVELOPING COUNTRY MUST DO EVENTUALLY, IF IT IS TO SURVIVE." GAINS IN PRC RICE PRODUCTION ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO NEW DWARF VARIETIES, WHICH ALLOW MORE FREQUENT HARVESTS; "INTERCROPPING," WHICH DESIGNED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHINA'S MASSIVE LABOR FORCE; AND RECYCLING OF WASTE FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

ALLUDING TO WARNINGS BY PEOPLE'S DAILY AND LAST MONTH'S DENUNCIATION BY CHU LAN, POWERFUL LEFT-WING LITERARY CRITIC TO WHOM PRUDENT CHINESE LITERATI PAY METICULOUS ATTENTION, LONDON OBSERVER REPORT FROM SINGAPORE (LAT DEC 19) DISCUSSES DILEMMA CHINESE WRITER FACES, HE MUST NOT AMUSE BUT HE MUST NOT BORE; HIS PLOTS MUST NOT BE DISTRACTING, BUT THEY MUST NOT BE DULL. HE MUST NOT WRITE ABOUT REAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS, BUT HE MUST NOT INDULGE IN EMPTY INVENTION EITHER. HE MUST PRODUCE STEREOTYPES, BUT NO PROLETARIAN GENERALITIES. HE MUST NOT EXPOSE SEAMY SIDE OF THINGS, BUT HE MUST NOT SOFTEN STRUGGLE BETWEEN IDEOLOGICAL GOOD AND IDEOLOGICAL EVIL.

11. THAILAND

NYT'S SHIPLER IN BANGKOK FINDS ELECTION CAMPAIGN EXCITING BUT NERVOUS PERIOD FOR THAIS. GIVEN TRANSIENT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 279399

NATURE OF THAILAND'S PREVIOUS EXPERIMENTS IN DEMOCRACY,

SHIPLER SAYS THERE IS SOME CAUSE FOR WORRY. CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN MARRED BY MORE THAN DOZEN INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE. ANOTHER SOURCE OF WORRY IS WHAT SOME THAIS CALL THEIR "MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX," WHICH IS STILL REGARDED AS CAPABLE OF COUP SHOULD ITS POLITICAL PARTIES - WHICH ARE CONSIDERED LIKELY TO LEAD IN VOTING - PROVE UNABLE TO FORM MAJORITY COALITION AFTER ELECTION.

AT LAST COUNT, THERE WERE 41 PARTIES IN RUNNING, WITH 8 OR 10 TAKEN SERIOUSLY. AMONG THESE ARE FOUR

THAT DERIVE FROM OLD PRO-GOVT CAMP'S UNITED THAI PEOPLE'S PARTY OF 1969-70 LEGISLATURE. THEY INCLUDE SOME RETIRED GENERALS AND WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN, ARE REPORTEDLY GETTING HEAVY FINANCIAL HELP FROM MIL AND ARE EXPECTED, TOGETHER, TO WIN JUST ENOUGH TO FORM COALITION AMONG THEMSELVES.

THIS WOULD BE IRONIC OUTCOME OF STUDENT REBELLION, WHICH WAS AIMED IN PART AGAINST OLD-LINE MILITARY AND INDUSTRY-ORIENTED OFFICIALS. IT ALSO CONCERNS SOME THAIS WHO ANTICIPATE GROWING CLASHES BETWEEN SUCH A GOVT AND COUNTRY'S NEW LABOR MOVEMENT.

CAMPAIGN IS VIRTUALLY WITHOUT ISSUES, BUT FOREIGN AND THAI ANALYSTS TEND TO DIVIDE PARTIES INTO THREE IDEOLOGICAL GROUPS - RIGHTIST OF MILITARY AND BUSINESSMEN, MODERATE GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS AND NEW INDUSTRIALISTS, AND COUPLE OF "LEFTIST" SOCIALIST PARTIES. HOWEVER, THESE ARE ARTIFICIAL DEFINITIONS. AMERICAN DIPLOMAT OBSERVED THAT IF THERE IS ECON ISSUE, IT IS NOT FREE ENTERPRISE VS. GOVT CONTROL AND OWNERSHIP, BUT THE QUESTION OF, "HOW DO YOU WANT TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT, OR DO YOU?" ACROSS THE SPECTRUM, POLITICIANS AGREE THAT GOVT SHOULD BE EFFICIENT AND HONEST; ALL SUPPORT LAND REFORM, THOUGH DIFFERING ON DETAIL. STUDENT'S POLITICAL POWER PROVED BRITTLE, SUITABLE ONLY FOR STREET CONFRONTATION, AND SO THEY REMAIN OUT OF THE CAMPAIGN. DISORGANIZED AND UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 279399

SOMEWHAT OUT OF FAVOR, STUDENTS ARE AVOIDED BY MOST CANDIDATES. THIS MAY REVIVE SENSE OF ALIENATION. SHIPLER NOTES THAT AT ONE RALLY A CHULALONGKORN STUDENT LISTENED DESPONDENTLY, IRRITATED THAT NOBODY WAS TALKING ABOUT US MIL PRESENCE IN THAILAND.

AP BANGKOK REPORT (CSM) CITES ELECTION OFFICIALS EXPECTING RECORD TURNOUT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS, LARGELY BECAUSE FOR FIRST TIME THE OUTCOME IS NOT FOREGONE

CONCLUSION. SANYA HAS NO INTENTION OF STAYING IN OFFICE DAY LONGER THAN HE HAS TO AND HAS NO POLITICAL MACHINE TO PERPETUATE. CONSEQUENTLY, RTG HAS CONFINED ITSELF TO PREPARING AND PUBLICIZING THIS ELECTION. NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER PLANS TO SEND OBSERVER TEAMS TO POLLS TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF CHOICE. POLICE ROUNDED UP HUNDREDS OF GUNMEN IN FEW PROVINCES AND ORGANIZED PEACEKEEPING COORDINATION CENTER TO ENSURE LAW AND ORDER BEFORE AND DURING ELECTION.

PLETHORA OF PARTIES MAKES IT UNLIKELY THAT ANY ONE WILL GAIN MAJORITY TO FORM CABINET. BUT BEST PROSPECTS

ARE SHOWN BY THREE GENERAL GROUPINGS ROUGHLY EQUAL IN STRENGTH - ROYALISTS, MILITARY, AND SOCIALISTS. SOME GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENTS AMONG ROYALISTS ALREADY ARE REPORTED TO HAVE FORMED, AND ALLIANCES ARE LIKELY, WITH KUKRIT CURRENTLY FAVORED TO BECOME PREMIER. MILITARY GROUP IS DOMINATED BY CHART THAI PARTY, DESCENDANT OF OLD MILITARY GOVT PARTY. SPORTING FRESH POLICIES TOWARD COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND ADVOCATING DECENTRALIZATION OF GOVT AND WELFARE FOR FARMERS, PARTY IS PLAYING DOWN MIL IMAGE. IN SOCIALIST CATEGORY ARE DOZEN PARTIES, ALMOST ALL NEW AND PENURIOUS, WHICH GENERALLY FAVOR SWEDISH-STYLE SOCIALISM AND QUICK END TO US MIL PRESENCE. THEIR FORTUNES WILL BE INDEX OF HOW LIBERALIZATION, UNREST, AND UNCERTAINTY SINCE LAST YEAR'S UPRISING HAVE INFLUENCED VOTING PUBLIC.

INDOCHINA

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 279399

S-N'S CROSBY NOYES (12/19) CITES BAD NEWS FROM VN, NOTES HOW QUICKLY AMERICANS HAVE CONSIGNED WAR "TO OBLIVION." REVIEWS OPPONENTS' VIEW OF FRENCH AND THEN US INVOLVEMENT AS EXTENSION OF WESTERN COLONIALISM AND PREDICTIONS THAT WHEN WEST PULLED OUT WHOLE THING WOULD END WITH COMMUNISTS TRIUMPHANT. IT HASN'T WORKED OUT THAT WAY, AND QUESTION AMERICANS HAVE TO ASK IS HOW FAR THEY ARE WILLING TO GO IN HELPING PEOPLE DEFEND AGAINST AGGRESSION WITHOUT DIRECT US INVOLVEMENT. MANY AMERICANS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED QUICK GVN COLLAPSE SINCE THIS WOULD HAVE BORNE OUT CONTENTION THAT IT WAS TYRANNICAL AND UNREPRESENTATIVE, PROVED FUTILITY OF OUR INTERVENTION AND INEVITABILITY OF COMMUNIST VICTORY, AND RELIEVED US OF OBLIGATIONS THAT ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNPOPULAR. BELIEVES HANOI AND PEKING COUNTED ON COLLAPSE, AND "OLD MEN" THERE ARE CONVINCED THEY MUST PREVAIL IN END AND ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE AS MANY YOUNG MEN AS MAY BE NEEDED. EVIDENCE IS PAINFULLY CLEAR THAT SOUTH VIETS STILL SUPPORT GVN AND THAT AT SOME POINT THEY MUST BE RECOGNIZED - AND SUPPORTED - AS GALLANT PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED MUCH AND FOUGHT BACK WITH TENACITY. CONGRESS "IN ITS WISDOM" CAN DO AS IT PLEASES AND WITHHOLD SUPPORT WITH ENTIRELY PREDICTABLE CONSEQUENCES, AND VOTERS WHO KNOW LITTLE OF VN OR ITS PEOPLE WILL NOT OBJECT MUCH. IF COMMUNISTS WIN THEY WILL DO IT OVER BODIES OF MANY VIETS WHO WANTED TO LIVE IN FREEDOM AND DECLINED TO SURRENDER TO AGGRESSION; THIS IS CHOICE THAT NO ONE IN "THIS FLACCID AND DISTRAUGHT NATION" CAN DENY THEM.

GLOBE'S STORIN IN SAIGON ASKS WHETHER US SHOULD CONTINUE AID TO SVN. QUOTES US OFFICIAL IN CENTRAL PART OF COUNTRY THAT AID COULD BE REDUCED WITHOUT SERIOUSLY CHANGING ANYTHING AND THAT THERE IS LOT OF WASTE. SAYS JUNIOR OFFICER IN SAIGON ARGUES THAT WITH TWO MORE YEARS OF HIGH-LEVEL AID, "WE CAN BE TOTALLY OUT IN FIVE YEARS.; TELLS OF CONGRESSIONAL CUT IN FUNDS THAT LED TO CANCELLATION OF PLANS FOR FERTILIZER PLANT, BUT QUOTES OFFICIAL UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 279399

NEAR PLANT SITE THAT IT COULDN'T BE BUILT THIS YEAR ANYHOW BECAUSE REFINERY HAS TO BE BUILT SIMULTANEOUSLY, AND THIS IS ONLY IN EARLY PLANNING STAGES. SAYS RECENT CUTS IN AMMO AND FUEL FROM US HAVE FORCED GROUNDING OF 500 PLANES, BUT US OFFICIALS CONCEDE THAT VNAF IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE 500 AIRCRAFT (BETTER CREW RATIO AND BETTER MAINTENANCE) AND WONDERS ABOUT WASTED FUNDS THAT PREVIOUSLY WENT INTO THEM, AND WHAT THAT SAYS ABOUT MIL AID IN GENERAL AND DAO STAFF THAT MONITORS FUNDS. SEES WAR GOING ON FOR LONG TIME DESPITE EMBASSY MIL SPECIALISTS WHO TALK ABOUT GETTING OUT IN FEW YEARS. BELIEVES GVN TROOPS CAN PREVENT MIL DEFEAT, BUT THERE ARE NO PREDICTIONS THAT THEY CAN CHASE COMMUNISTS OUT. QUOTES AMERICAN IN HIGHLANDS THAT "ALL HELL IS GOING TO BREAK LOOSE - AND SOON, TOO"; HE IS CONCERNED THAT AMB MARTIN DELEGATES FIELD SURVEYS TOO MUCH TO STAFF AND SELDOM GETS OUT OF SAIGON TO GET FEELING OF SITUATION.

STORIN CONCLUDES THAT THERE ARE TWO MAJOR ARGUMENTS FOR CONTINUING US AID "FOR PERHAPS TWO MORE YEARS": FIRST IS COMMITMENT THAT MILLIONS OF VIETS HAVE MADE TO "CORRUPT BUT STABLE" GOVT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF ILL-ADVISED US INTERVENTION. COMMUNIST TAKEOVER

WOULD LIKELY RESULT IN BLOODSHED BEYOND WHAT US CONSCIENCE COULD TOLERATE. SECOND IS ENCOURAGING PROSPECT THAT COMMERCIAL OIL FINDS COULD RESCUE SVN ECONOMY. STORIN INSISTS THAT US MUST WORK DIPLOMATICALLY TO FORCE THIEU TO RECOGNIZE POLITICAL PARTS OF C-F. ANY CLAIM THAT THERE WILL BE PEACE WITH THIEU STILL IN POWER "FLIES IN FACE" OF OTHER SIDE'S MIL STRENGTH AND PERSISTENCE. ADDS THAT IF US DIPLOMATS FAIL IN THIS, COMMITMENT OF AID IS "COLD WAR PIPEDREAM" AND WE HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM "OUR MOST TRAGIC WAR." SISCO

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED BUDAPEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE279399
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740372-0160
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741276/abbrzagh.tel
Line Count: 541
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by colstocv>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER 20 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
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